

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 18-49 will be pending. Claims 48 and 49 have been added to more fully claim the invention as originally disclosed and the Abstract has been amended as requested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, The Examiner states that originally filed claims 18-37 were directed to a third embodiment of the disclosed invention while the amended and new claims 18-30, 32-34 and 38-47 are directed to a second embodiment of the disclosed invention. The Examiner further states that the invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution of the merits since Applicants received an Action on the merits for claims directed to the third embodiment of the disclosed invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's constructive election of species. No election requirement has been made in this application and no reason has been presented by the Examiner to support such an election requirement. Furthermore, the Examiner did not cite any authority for making a constructive election of species rather than restriction to different inventions. Nonetheless, Applicants have added claims 48 and 49 that are generic to the embodiments originally and currently claimed to expedite the prosecution of this case.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 48 and 49 are allowable over the references of record and thus all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The arguments presented with the Amendment filed on December 9, 2002 provide further basis of patentability.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"**.

Respectfully submitted,

Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

By: _____


Henry J. Daley

Reg. No.: 42,459

Tel. No.: (202) 775-9832

Fax No.: (202) 833-8491

HJD\JMS
1133 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 775-9800
Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 48 and 49.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The abstract attached herewith as a separate sheet is changed as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A TV observation system for an endoscope including an endoscope and a small-sized light source unit. The endoscope can be structurally separated into an insertion part and a proximal holding part continuously extending from the insertion part. The endoscope can [comprise] include a light guide arranged from a distal end of [said] the insertion part through [said] the proximal holding part. The proximal holding part can be provided with a light guide joint section where an entrance end face of [said] the light guide is fixed. The small-sized light source unit can be constructed and arranged to be removably connected with the light guide joint section. The small-sized light source unit can include [includes] a plurality of small-sized LEDs, a batter configured to power the plurality of LEDs, and a compounding optical system configured to compound light emitted by the plurality of small-sized LEDs.